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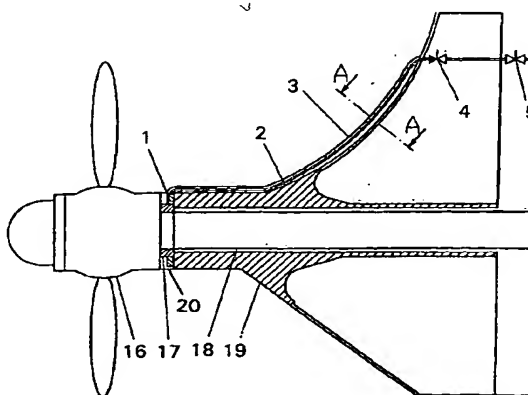
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ning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: METHOD AND DEVICE FOR EXCLUDING ENTRY OF DEBRIS INTO AN OUTER SEAL OF A SHAFT PASSING THROUGH THE HULL OF A MARITIME VESSEL



(57) Abstract: The invention relates to a method and device for excluding the entry of debris into the outer seal of the sealing system of a shaft passing through the hull of a maritime vessel to the exterior side thereof. The outer seals of propeller shafts are conventionally implemented using a mechanical sliding ring seal or an elastic lip seal. When navigating in shallow waters, the wear of the outer seal of the propeller shaft is caused by solid particulate matter floating in the water, whereby the wear rate of the seal under these conditions may be intolerably fast. According to the invention, a flushing flow of filtered water is passed from an internal water source of the vessel to the immediate vicinity of the outer seal. Advantageously, this takes place via a nozzle ring adapted about the shaft. When necessary, the flushing water may also be heated and, the positive head thus applied externally about the seal may be additionally utilized to counteract a possible oil leakage from the bearings of the shaft to the environment.

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